

UCLA Faculty Association

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Thursday, October 9, 2025

Straws in the Wind - Part 125

From the [Financial Times](#): *The University of Chicago, renowned for producing world-leading research in economics and finance, is selling a prized research centre as it struggles with heavy debt and lacklustre endowment returns. Proceeds from the \$375mn sale of the Center for Research in Security Prices — founded in 1960 by two UChicago professors — would be added to the university's endowment and invested to boost returns, a spokesman said...* "The fact that they have to sell a celebrated part of the university now is very telling of how poor their fiscal situation is," said Hunter Lewis, co-founder of Cambridge Associates.



UChicago's strains came after its \$10bn endowment — a critical source of revenue — delivered an annualised return of 6.7 per cent over the 10 years to 2024, among the weakest performances of any major US university. The private university has taken a more conservative investment approach than many peers, with greater exposure to fixed income and less to equities since the global financial crisis in 2008...

An aggressive borrowing spree to expand its research capacity also weighed on the university's financial health. UChicago's outstanding debt, measured by notes and bonds payable, climbed by about two-thirds in the decade ending 2024, to \$6.1bn, as it poured resources into new fields such as molecular engineering and quantum science...

Federal funding cuts have exacerbated the university's financial situation. Since President Trump took office, federal agencies have rescinded about 65 grants awarded to University of Chicago faculty. The immediate impact on fiscal year 2025 revenue was projected at \$10 million to \$15 million, with the longer-term shortfall potentially exceeding \$40 million beginning in 2026. "The profound federal policy changes of the last eight months have created multiple and significant new uncertainties and strong downward pressure on our finances," said UChicago president Paul Alivisatos in a message to faculty last month...

Full story at <https://www.ft.com/content/4501240f-58b7-4433-9a3f-77eff18d0898>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [politics](#), [U of Chicago](#)

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

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- Judge rules Trump demands of UCLA must be made public
- Faculty are fighting back
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- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy

Remaking the University

- [Liner Note 40. AI's Two Pathways: 2025 Has Discredited Booster Assumptions of 2024 - 10/11/2025](#)
- [Liner Note 39. Attack Theory for Education - 9/28/2025](#)
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- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)
- [UCSB Faculty Association](#)
- [UCSC Faculty Association](#)
- [UCB Faculty Association](#)
- [Council of UC Faculty Associations](#)

Other Faculty Organizations

- [American Association of University Professors](#)
- [California Faculty Association \(NEA\)](#)
- [UC-AFT](#)

Topics

[politics](#) (2238) [UC](#) (2057) [UC Regents](#) (1862) [health care](#) (1413) [State Budget](#) (1262) [governor](#) (1112) [UC budget crisis](#) (956) [diversity](#) (902) [UC-Berkeley](#) (895) [pension](#) (656) [pensions](#) (589) [admissions](#) (534) [tuition](#) (523) [athletics](#) (511) [CSU](#) (406) [transportation](#) (387) [UC-Davis](#) (374) [online education](#) (338) [UCOP](#) (304) [uc retirement](#) (301) [ucrp](#) (300) [traffic](#) (292) [audio](#) (291) [new](#) [hotel-](#)

It added that, by not attending class, “students are missing opportunities to hear the perspectives of other students with different viewpoints.” ...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/06/us/harvard-students-absenteeism.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [Harvard](#), [politics](#)

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Rank Smell

From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#):
The University of California's most sought-after campus, and its hardest to get into, is the famed UCLA, a school so prestigious that it is often called a "public Ivy" and compared with the elite institutions that dot the East Coast. But a new ranking released by the Wall Street Journal and College Pulse on Wednesday suggests, rightly or wrongly, that many other American universities — including UC Berkeley — offer a better deal for students than UCLA does.



The 2026 ranking of 584 American universities names Stanford University as the best college in the country, and UC Berkeley as eighth best overall — and the top public university. By contrast, UCLA languishes far down the list at No. 80, just behind Cal State San Marcos and well below UC Merced at No. 14. UC's Central Valley campus is where California's high school seniors are automatically admitted when they qualify for UC but have been turned down elsewhere...

"Unlike other school rankings, this list emphasizes one point: How well did the college prepare students for financial success?" according to the Journal's story about its own ranking. "More than any other factor, it rewards the boost an institution provides to its graduates' salaries." The full methodology indicates that the Journal also concluded that UCLA fell short of UC Berkeley and other schools in ways other than its post-graduation paychecks, to which the Journal assigned 33% of the ranking's weight.

With the research firm College Pulse, the Journal surveyed 120,000 students and recent alumni. Colleges were then judged based on how long it takes to pay off any college debt (17% weight), graduation rate (20%), learning environment — including facilities, career preparation, networking opportunities and other measures — (20%), and students' ethnic, financial and disability diversity (10%).

A similar discrepancy showed up between UCLA and UC Berkeley in the Chronicle's 20-year analysis of the best-paying jobs for every UC and California State University major. It revealed that computer science majors who graduate from UC Berkeley eventually earn \$33,000 more annually than those from UCLA. Experts largely attribute the gap to UC Berkeley's proximity to Silicon Valley...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/ucla-uc-college-university-21078625.php>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [CSU](#), [UC-Berkeley](#), [UC-Merced](#), [UCLA](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 124

From ARTnews: *As of last week, Syracuse University in Upstate New York is pausing admission for 20 majors, including fine arts and digital humanities, in its College of Arts and Sciences. The decision was made by the institution's senate in its first meeting of the 2025–26 academic year without faculty input. "I have not talked to a single faculty member who is not as deeply concerned for the health of this institution and wanting us to have the best possible programs, and this is true of departments that are struggling," Crystal Bartolovich, an associate professor in the English department, said in the meeting, according to the university newspaper the Daily Orange. "That these decisions were made above us, without our input, is deeply troubling." ...*



The university's honors program still hangs in the balance, while the following 18 majors were paused:

- *African American Studies*
- *Applied Mathematics B.A.*
- *Chemistry B.A.*
- *Classical Civilization*
- *Classics (Greek and Latin)*
- *Digital Humanities*
- *Fine Arts*

[conference center](#) (282) [UC enrollment](#) (280) [enrollment](#) (257) [UC-San Diego](#) (255) [community colleges](#) (236) [LAO](#) (224) [UC-Irvine](#) (183) [fund raising](#) (165) [UC-San Francisco](#) (159) [UC-Santa Barbara](#) (158) [UC-Santa Cruz](#) (156) [controller](#) (147) [faculty center](#) (144) [UC-Riverside](#) (140) [ballot propositions](#) (132) [CalPERS](#) (122) [UC-Merced](#) (114) [faculty pay](#) (109) [Master Plan](#) (102) [Yudof](#) (90) [UCRS retirement](#) (62) [Faculty Association at UCLA](#) (60) [parking](#) (60) [privatization](#) (59) [CalSTRS](#) (50) [UC Berkeley](#) (34) [copyright](#) (34) [campus climate survey](#) (28) [UCRS](#) (22) [Michigan Model](#) (18) [UC Merced](#) (17) [uc funding](#) (16) [Regents](#) (14) [State Contribution](#) (14) [UCOF](#) (14) [faculty recruitment](#) (12) [UC pay](#) (7) [graduate education](#) (6) [UC San Diego](#) (5) [UC Irvine](#) (3) [UCPolitics](#) (3) [teaching evaluation](#) (3) [UC Santa Cruz](#) (2)

Blog Archive

▼ 2025 (938)

▼ October (104)

[But feel free to walk around](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 147](#)

[Our Halloween Offering](#)

[UCLA/UC Throws in the Towel - Part 3 \(more reflect...](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 146](#)

[Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 83](#)

[UCLA/UC Throws in the Towel - Part 2 \(reflections\)](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 145](#)

[Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 82](#)

[Westside Commutes](#)

[Graduate Degrees After Undergraduate](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 144](#)

[Don't Choose What's Not on the Menu](#)

[Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 81](#)

[Successor to UCAD](#)

[Bubble, Bubble?](#)

[Athletic Investments - Part 2](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 143](#)

[UCLA/UC Throws in the Towel](#)

[Athletic Investments](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 142](#)

[Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 80](#)

[We're a'waiting - Part 2 \(UC's hesitating\)](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 141](#)

[Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 79](#)

[April 24, 2026](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 140](#)

[Lawsuit May Affect UC Authors](#)

[We're a'waiting](#)

[Athletic Reluctance](#)

[Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 78](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 139](#)

[The Club](#)

[Kent Wong](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 138](#)

[Behind Closed Doors This Coming Wednesday](#)

[Turn Around](#)

[Straws in the Wind - Part 137](#)

- *French and Francophone Studies*
- *German Language, Literature, and Culture B.A.*
- *History of Architecture*
- *Italian Language, Literature, and Culture B.A.*
- *Latino-Latin American Studies*
- *Middle Eastern Studies*
- *Modern Jewish Studies*
- *Music History and Cultures*
- *Religion*
- *Russian Language, Literature, and Culture B.A.*
- *Statistics B.A. ...*

Full story at <https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/syracuse-university-pauses-admission-for-20-undergraduate-majors-1234754624/>.

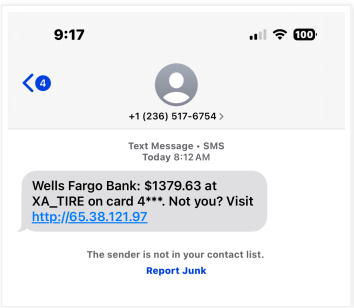
Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [Syracuse U](#)

Don't Click!

Note that this message is not specific as to whether it's about a credit card or a debit card. I believe all Wells Fargo cards start with a 4. And the text comes from a phone number with an area code in British Columbia, Canada.

If you get a message such as this one and you want to be assured it is junk/spam/fraud, call the phone number on your card, not the one in the message. Do not click on the link provided. Wells Fargo tells me that if they send text messages to customers, the messages do not come from ordinary phone numbers.

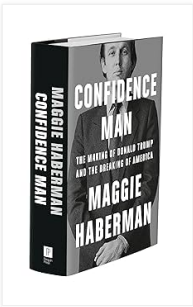


Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [email fraud](#)

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Confidence vs. Confidence



From the [Sacramento Bee](#): Gov. Gavin Newsom said [last] Friday he was "confident" that California universities would reject federal attempts to condition educational funds, a day after the governor said he would block state funds to any California school that agreed to a White House compact in exchange for preferential funding treatment. ...USC told its on-campus newspaper it was "reviewing" the compact, which the federal administration also sent to MIT, the University of Pennsylvania, Dartmouth College, Vanderbilt University, the University of Texas-Austin, the University of Arizona, Brown University, and the University of Virginia.

Newsom said [last] Thursday in an all-caps Trump-emulating statement that any California university that signed the compact would "instantly" lose state funds, saying California would not

"BANKROLL SCHOOLS THAT SELL OUT THEIR STUDENTS, PROFESSORS, RESEARCHERS, AND SURRENDER ACADEMIC FREEDOM."

Full story at <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article312372038.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [governor](#), [politics](#), [USC](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 123

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *The University of Maine cancelled its annual summit on floating offshore wind power as federal support for renewable energy wanes, Maine Public reported.*

The university decided against holding the American Floating Offshore Wind Technical Summit, or AFLOAT, "in recognition of changing federal policies and priorities," university spokesperson Samantha Warren said in a statement. The university's Advanced Structures and Composites Center has hosted the summit since 2020.

The state of Maine came out with an energy plan this year that includes offshore wind as a pivotal part of meeting renewable energy goals. But the Trump administration has shown

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 77

Ten Percent

Straws in the Wind - Part 136

In House

Straws in the Wind - Part 135

Call

Brave New World - Part 2

Straws in the Wind - Part 134

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 76

Something Missing? - Part 2

Straws in the Wind - Part 133

Subway traffic issues around UCLA this coming weekend

If at first...

Input

Straws in the Wind - Part 132

Five

Going Down - Part 2

Straws in the Wind - Part 131

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 75

Vetoed

Behind Closed Doors Today

Newsom on Federal Data Requests and Related Topics

Straws in the Wind - Part 130

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 74

Something Missing?

Straws in the Wind - Part 129

Reject

Going Down

Straws in the Wind - Part 128

Hi

Back and Forth

Straws in the Wind - Part 127

Brave New World

Straws in the Wind - Part 126

Another Quarterly Reminder

Fully Aligned?

Straws in the Wind - Part 125

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 73

Rank Smell

Straws in the Wind - Part 124

Don't Click!

Confidence vs. Confidence

Straws in the Wind - Part 123

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 72

Nowadays, nothing is official...

Tweaks - Part 2

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 71

Straws in the Wind - Part 122

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 70

Slow hiring

Straws in the Wind - Part 121

They must be somewhere

Straws in the Wind - Part 120

The Alternative Way to Read the Blog

Update on Vote

Nothing to See Here

Straws in the Wind - Part 119

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 69

No Rush

Cloudy Outlook

Straws in the Wind - Part 118

opposition to such projects—the federal government suspended a \$12.5 million grant to the University of Maine’s floating offshore wind power program this spring...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/09/30/university-maine-cancels-wind-power-summit>.



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- [September](#) (116)
- [August](#) (115)
- [July](#) (101)
- [June](#) (96)
- [May](#) (85)
- [April](#) (81)
- [March](#) (83)
- [February](#) (76)
- [January](#) (81)

- [2024](#) (832)
- [2023](#) (828)
- [2022](#) (719)
- [2021](#) (710)
- [2020](#) (914)
- [2019](#) (671)
- [2018](#) (595)
- [2017](#) (666)
- [2016](#) (715)
- [2015](#) (765)
- [2014](#) (704)
- [2013](#) (776)
- [2012](#) (839)
- [2011](#) (738)
- [2010](#) (431)
- [2009](#) (12)

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